

REMARKS

By the foregoing amendment to the Specification a benefit claim for priority for the present application is made in accordance with 35 U.S.C. §120 by adding a new first sentence to the description identifying the prior application by application number and filing date.

The present application was filed on August 27, 2003. Four months from the application filing date is December 27, 2003, which falls on a Saturday. This Amendment is being filed on Monday, December 29, 2003. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the requirements for timely filing a reference to a prior-filed application to support a priority claim, as required by 37 C.F.R. §1.78(a)(2)(ii), are satisfied.

It is respectfully requested that the priority claim for benefit of an earlier filing date as represented by the foregoing Amendment be recognized and noted in the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



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